

Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

17 May 88

Executive Secretariat

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EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE NO:

L-231-1R
~~C-109-1R~~
~~Pakistan~~

CROSS REF: _____

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GORDON J. HUMPHREY
NEW HAMPSHIRE

531 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-2841
NEW HAMPSHIRE TOLL FREE NUMBER
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
March 30, 1988

Lt. General Colin L. Powell
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear General Powell:

I understand that the President will meet today with his senior advisors to decide how to respond to a request yesterday from Pakistan to support the abandonment of the U. S. - Pakistan position on symmetry.

Under the Geneva agreements as they now stand, Pakistan and Afghanistan pledge not to interfere in affairs of each other. In practical terms, that means the Soviets are free to resupply the puppet regime in Kabul, but Pakistan must cut off aid to the Resistance, and the U. S. must act as a guarantor of this one-sided arrangement. It was precisely, the one-sidedness of the arrangement, I understand, that led the Administration two weeks ago to publicly call for symmetry.

I urge you to counsel the President against acceding to the Pakistani request. Indeed, we should tell Pakistan we simply cannot act as guarantor to such a disadvantageous arrangement.

I understand there are certain private assurances about what recourse we might have in the event of difficulties. But please point out, that Pakistan would have to violate the Geneva agreements in order to resupply the resistance, should that prove necessary. And we, as a guarantor, would have to work hand in glove with the Pakistanis in violation of our role as guarantor.

After eight years of struggle to restore Afghanistan, we are at a critical moment. Firmness on our part is essential.

In my view, there would be no support in the Senate for any decision by the U.S. to abandon our policy of symmetry, in favor of the Geneva agreements which do not contain symmetry provisions. Any agreement that the Government of Pakistan must violate in order to resupply the Mujahideen, while the Soviets would be within their rights to supply Kabul, would be a sharp departure from the policy unanimously endorsed by the U.S. Senate.

DCI
EXEC
REG

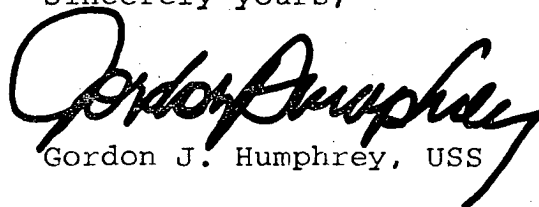
ONE EAGLE SQUARE
CONCORD, NH 03301

157 MAIN STREET
BERLIN, NH 03570

Lt. General Colin L. Powell
March 30, 1988
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With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon J. Humphrey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gordon" being more prominent and stylized than the last name "Humphrey".

Gordon J. Humphrey, USS

GJH/tk